MR. K. R, NARAYANAN :

92. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN :

93. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN :

94. To reduce the allotment Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1,

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :

95 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN :

96. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR :

97. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR, M. L. JANARDANA PILLAI :

98. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU :

99. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU :

100. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU :

101. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU :

102. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,19,890 for Land Revenue by Re. 1.

2.—TAXES ON INCOME—*Total allotment.*

MR, J. E. A. PERREIRA :

103. *To reduce the allotment of Rs 45,000 for Taxes on Income by Re. 1.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI :

104. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,000 for Taxes on Income by Re. 1.

MR. M. L. JANARDANA PILLAI :

105. To reduce the allotment of Rs 43,000 for Taxes on Income by Re. 1.

*Motion for reduction of total grant under Demand I.*

MR. N. VELU PILLAI :

106. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 10,13,290 under Demand I by Re. 1.

## DEMAND II—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

**MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN :** Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 7,10,000 under Demand No. II—Excise Department.

### Motion No. 17.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN :

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,735 for Inspectors by Re 1

### Motion No. 108.

**MR. K. P. KOCHUKORATHARAKAN :** Sir, I move.

"That the allotment of Rs. 2,735 for Inspectors be reduced by Rs. 5"...

**MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :** Sir, I rise to a point of order. The Inspector has nothing to do in the matter of manufacture and storing of salt.

**PRESIDENT :** Yes : I will allow you to speak on this matter next.



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**Motion No. 109.**

The following motion was not moved:

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs 120 for local allowances by Rs. 5.

**Motions Nos. 110 and 111.**

The following motions were not moved:

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,815 for salaries by Re. 1

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,815 for salaries by Re. 1.

**Motion No. 112.**

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: Sir, I move:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,100 for Salt Factories by Re. 1."

Sir, the manufacture of salt in our alloms is so done that the salt obtained is not pure at all. It cannot compare in purity with the Bombay salt, because of certain reasons. One is that in these alloms salt is scraped in the morning or evening hours. The usual and scientific procedure ought to be that salt should be scraped during the hottest part of the day. As a matter of fact, all the scientists, who have studied the subject well, say that salt should be scraped during the hottest part of the day. The reason for scraping salt in the morning in our alloms is not far to seek. In the morning, the labourers demand only low wages. If the scraping is done in the hottest part of the day, the cooly would demand a higher wage. The result, therefore, is that the salt produced now is full of a very great percentage of sodium chloride. This, when consumed by the people, cause stomach troubles to them.

Sir, another matter is that in many alloms salt is scraped at 32 degrees with the result that the soldium chloride percentage is below 90. Moreover, many of the licensees do not know anything about the hydrometer and as such they cannot afford to be very careful in the manufacture of pure salt.

In many alloms, quick brine is used for the manufacture of salt. It is now said by people that if brine is, on the whole, used, sea water is the best water for salt.

In the Administration Report of the Department, something is said with regard to this. It is stated there that "In the said alloms there are..... from which the brine of a very high density is found". Sir, the summary of this statement is that quick brine is useless for preparing pure salt. Therefore in view of this statement the Department must see that sea water is made available to all the factories so that pure salt may be manufactured by them. Sir, the alloms at Rajakamangalam and Thamarakulam used only brine with the result that the purest quality of salt was obtained.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: It has been proved by tests that some specimens of salt manufactured in the local alloms contained over 90 per cent of sodium chloride. This is a higher percentage than that.

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found in Bombay salt or any other salt manufactured in India. I challenge my honourable friend to prove that our salt is in any way deleterious when compared to other specimens of salts manufactured in other parts of India.

**MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI:** What is the lowest percentage? Sir, he has given the highest percentage and not the lowest.

**MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN:** Eighty four is the lowest percentage.

A few other charges were levelled against this Department. One is that the Department permits scraping when the brine is of about 30 degrees density. Sir, this is never the case and I challenge my honourable friend to prove to me any occasion when this was done. It is never possible and it has never been done in any of the salt factories.

Then, the Honourable member was asking why scaping was not done during the hottest part of the day. We have rules drafted under the Salts Act and these rules are adhered to. There is no restriction at all in them in regard to the hour of scraping. In fact, scraping is done in the morning, noon and evening. It is only when the brine is of the proper density, *i. e.*, above 25 and below 30 degrees that the scraping is done. It has nothing to do with the particular hours of the day.

Mr. K. Narayanaperumal Nadar also stated that there was no instrument in many of the factories. I know, as a matter of fact, that instruments are kept in all factories.

**PRESIDENT.** What he referred to was a specific make of hydrometer.

**MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN:** There is a special make of hydrometer which is the one prescribed by the Department and that is made use of in testing the density of brine.

As regards quick brine, some of the best specimens of salt that has been manufactured in Travancore comes from quick brine. The only question is with regard to the density. It does not matter whether the material used is quick brine or sea brine. If it is of the required density nobody can say that quick brine would give impure salt.

There is a proposal pending with the Government regarding the supply of sea water. The P. W. D. is also being consulted in this matter and this question is under investigation and has not been decided so far.

I suppose these words will satisfy Mr. Nadar and that he will withdraw the motion.

**MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR:** Sir, I do not agree to the learned Excise Commissioner's view that the salt manufactured in our Alloms is quite pure. How to test the purity of the salt is the question. Sir, the usual test applied by the people is to take a few crystals of salt and press it between the thumbs and then let fall the particles. If any portion of the powdered crystal adheres to the thumb that means that there is the presence of magnesium chloride which



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[Mr. K. Narayanaperumal Nadar]

is highly poisonous. I have examined many of the varieties and I have applied this test- I find that the salt in all those places does not conform to the test. I may accept that this test is very rude. It is not scientific. It has nothing to do with laboratory experiments. But however crude it may appear to be, it is, none the less, a scientific test.

**PRESIDENT:** Order, order. I was just now consulting certain persons who certainly knew something about salt. I do not think there is much of magnesium chloride in these specimens as the honourable member has spoken. Does the honourable member mean magnesium *sulphate*? I mean epsome salt. If it is this, it is what is ordinarily prescribed for laxative purposes.

**MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR** Sir, it is stated in a booklet, a departmental publication of 1931 over the signature of Mr. C. Kumara Das, who is now the Director of Industries, that such a test is the proper test. I am of opinion that the salt prepared in our alloms is far from satisfactory and therefore I press the motion.

The question that "the allotment of Rs, 48,100 for salt factories be reduced by Re 1" was put to vote and declared lost, Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar alone voting for.

**MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI:** Sir, I demand a poll.

**PRESIDENT:** No.

**Motion no. 113**

The following motions were not moved as they were declared lapsed.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,100 for Salt Factories by Re. 1

**Motion No. 114**

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs 48,100 for Salt Factories by Re. 1

**Motion No. 115**

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,100 for Salt Factories by Re. 1

**PRESIDENT:** I come to the next item Salt Business.

**Motion No. 116.**

**MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR:** Sir, I move:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 72.800 for Salt Business by Re. 1.

Sir, some twenty years back a system of 'Pani' was introduced in salt factories in the matter of selling salt. Then another system was introduced by Mr. C. O. Madhavan when he was the Excise Commissioner. Afterwards it was found quite unsatisfactory and it was given up. But it was again introduced by the present Chief Secretary when he was the Excise Commissioner. By virtue of this system the average yield for the various Alloms is calculated and a certain quota fixed which will be in the proportion of their productivity. For example suppose a licensee produces 100 maunds and another produces 25 maunds. By virtue of this system the former will be allowed to sell 4 times the latter.

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Will the member kindly explain what is meant by 'Pani'

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: There are two panies. One is called Purattasi Pani and the other is called Thai Pani. I do not exactly know the corresponding Malabar month. Salt turned out during the first six months of the year is called Thai pani.

By this system there is no incentive for the licensees to manufacture salt because they know for certain that the amount of salt will be fixed by Government and there is no incentive on their part to improve their quality. Lastly the price of salt will also rise, For these reasons the controlling system of selling salt, that is the quota system, is absolutely unnecessary. And moreover this system is not found anywhere in British India. For these reasons, I put it.....

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the Honourable member the object with which the quota system was introduced?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: It was purely to benefit the big licensees. I am not prepared to name those licensees. It does not benefit the public at all. It benefits only the big licensees.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: Sir, yearly about 18 lakhs of maunds of salt are produced, as against 12 to 13 lakhs of maunds consumed. There is thus a clear surplus amount of salt, and the question of selling this surplus was engaging the attention not only of Government but also of the licensees. In 1108 the question first came up. Again it came up in 1113. This year also it has come up. This control system was established at the request of, and with the consent of all the licensees. This measure was introduced at their instance and for their convenience. And it is also according to their wishes it was given effect to. What I mean is, in 1113 the quota system was fixed according to the stock held by the licensees, as desired by them.

PRESIDENT: What about the conferences?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: There were a series of conferences and at the last stage, it was decided that quota should be based on production, *i. e.*, on the out-put of factories. It came into effect this year, tentatively for one year, and it will be in effect for 3 months more. It is liable to be revised and all the licensees are going to be consulted before anything further is done.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: Is the system successful?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: It is successful in this way, that there is control on sale. It also discourages over production and its unhealthy results.

One point raised by the honourable member was that it would affect the price of salt. There is no possibility of the price being affected, because Government is fixing the minimum price. Another objection was that there would be no incentive for production. Sir, it does not matter if the production comes down a little. It is only to prevent the evil effects of over production, that this system was introduced

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[Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan]

This was introduced at the instance of the licensees who ought to know much better than the honourable member. So I think there is nothing objectionable about the quota system, and with this I hope the member will not press the motion.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Sir, I wish to make a few observations about the quota system which has been discussed by Mr. K Narayanaperumal Nadar. The quota system was first introduced in the year 1113 towards the close of it by the Excise Commissioner. When it was introduced, the system was based upon an assignment of quotas or quantities for sale to the individual licensees in proportion to the stocks of salt held by the licensees at the various factories. These stocks referred not to the entire quantities held by them but to the stocks of a particular year or the stocks of previous years. That is to say for a particular year stocks were taken into account and quotas were assigned to the various licensees in proportion to such stocks. The apparent injustice of that system lay in the fact that a particular licensee who had developed a very efficient sales organisation had a very low stock and another licensee who had inefficient system of sales organisation had a huge stock, so that the system gave an advantage to the licensee who was not able to dispose of his salt by his inefficient system of sales. So the licensee who had developed a very efficient system of sales organisation was placed at a disadvantage compared with the other man who had a less efficient system. That was the handicap under which certain licensees were placed. These grievances were placed before the Government and the Government have been pleased to revise that system and a new system has been developed based upon the average productive capacity of each Allom or factory. This is analogous to the system which has been developed by the International Settlement in regard to tea and Rubber and is fair to all the licensees. This is a very rational system and there can be no complaint with regard to the system which has been now introduced. To just bring home to the House the injustice of the previous system which was introduced and was in force for more than one year, I will give certain figures. One of the licensees got a quota of 5 lakhs of maunds as against a total consumption by private sale of 9 lakhs of maunds. It will be seen that it works out in the case of that licensee to nearly 60 per cent. of the total sale by all the licensees together, the number of licensees being 14 or 15. The injustice of the system will be apparent. I do not want to make any further comments. The figures will speak for themselves.

Again another feature of the old system which has been abolished however is that the whole State was not taken as the area of operation. The quantity available in the factories alone was taken into account and a system of control was exercised in regard to the sale of salt in the factories. A rational system of control should extend to the whole of Travancore and the entire stock available in the whole of Travancore should be taken into account. These were clear pieces of

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injustice which were caused by the administration of the old quota system. Fortunately that system has been revised by the Government but the grievances caused by the operation of the old system still remain and are causing severe heart burning to the licensees and they have to be remedied. I hope the Government will look into the matter and redress the grievances which have been pointed out.

**PRESIDENT**: Does the Excise Commissioner want to say anything?

**MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN**: Referring to the changed system we have time enough to review it after three months.

**MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR**: In this connection two more things have to be considered. There have been many petitions from the licensees to the Government for the abolition of the quota system. Consequently there is justification for repealing it.

**MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN**: Has the honourable member the right to reply?

**PRESIDENT**: No. I am asking him whether he is pressing the motion or not.

**MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR**: For these reasons I press the motion, Sir.

The motion was put to vote and declared lost.

**MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI**: I demand a poll.

**PRESIDENT**: Oh. no. That is not possible.

The following motions from 117 to 121 were not moved.

Motion No. 117 of Mr. P. S. Muhammed to reduce the allotment of Rs. 72,800 for Salt Business by Re. 1.

Motion No. 118 of Mr. P. S. Muhammed to reduce the allotment of Rs 72,800 for Salt Business by Re. 1.

Motion No. 119 of Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar to reduce the allotment of Rs. 72,800 for Salt Business by Re. 1.

Motion No. 120 of Mr. P. V. Mathai Chemparathy to reduce the allotment of Rs. 72,800 for Salt Business by Re. 1, and

Motion No. 121 of Mr. P. Narayana Pillai: to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,20,900 for Salt by Re. 1.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI**: ഉപ്പിനുള്ള ഫ,ഫ ൦,ൻ൦ ൦ രൂപായിൽ നിന്നും ഫ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉപക്ഷേപം ഞാൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കവിഞ്ഞു ഉപ്പു വിളയിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു കാണാൻ കഴിയും. അങ്ങിനെ അധികം വരുന്ന ഉപ്പു വ്യവസായപരങ്ങളായ എന്തെങ്കിലും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണ്. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ഇവിടത്തെ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മ

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[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai]

യ്ക്കും അതു ഒട്ടൊരു ശാന്തി വരുത്തുന്നതായിരിക്കും. മഗ്നീഷ്യം സംഫൈറ്റ്, എപ്സം സാൾട്ട്, സംഫ്യൂറിക് ആസിഡ് മുതലായ സാമാനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുവേണം ഉപ്പിന്റെ നിർമ്മാണം സാധിക്കുവാൻ എന്നു ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇവിടെ ഒരു യൂനിവേഴ്സിറ്റി ഉള്ളിടത്തോളം കാലം, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ വലിയ വിദ്വാന്മാരായ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ നടത്തുമ്പോൾ, ഈ വക സാധനങ്ങൾക്കൊന്നും ഒരു ദൗർലഭ്യവും ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ടേബിൾ സാൾട്ട് വിദേശത്തുനിന്നും ഇവിടെ ധാരാളം ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. ആ മാതിരി സാധനങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ ഉപ്പിൽനിന്നും ധാരാളമായി ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണ്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ പതിയുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്.

**MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN:** Sir, Government have already deputed a Professor of chemistry to conduct experiments in two factories, one where sea brine is used and another where pit brine is utilised. In the course of the experiments he may come across some bye-products which can be manufactured.

**PRESIDENT:** I think the honourable member must bring some of those specimens here, table salt for instance. You must bring it tomorrow. Have you anything else to say?

**MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN:** Experiments are being conducted and after the results are known something useful can be done.

**MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI:** What are the results of the experiments?

**MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN:** Experiments are being conducted and at this stage it is not possible to say what the results are.

**PRESIDENT:** I want to say a few words before this motion is put to vote. In regard to this matter, Sulphuric Acid cannot be produced here without the assistance of sulphur. But Hydro Chloric Acid can be produced, for Sulphuric Acid to be generated on a sufficiently commercial scale sulphur has to be imported, which is now very difficult for obvious reasons, for most of the sulphur comes from Italy and Sicily. The manufacture of Sulphuric Acid can be started, we thought with the aid of a certain amount of Lignite available in the State. But it is not found possible. The idea of getting some of the by-products from our salt is one of the matters which is engaging the attention of the Government.

**MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI:** I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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**PRESIDENT:** I have to make one or two statements. The third reading of the Debt Relief Bill has to take place and it has been suggested, subject to what the Honourable members of this House might say, that there might be a sitting on Wednesday from 5 P. M. onwards. It is stated that the third reading will not take more than half an hour or an hour. That may be an optimistic reading of the situation, but I hope it will be right. Does that generally commend itself to the Honourable members of the House?

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Yes, Sir.

**PRESIDENT:** Along with that, there is the Jenmi Kudiyan Amendment Bill which, I am told, will only take a few minutes. Both of these Bills will be taken up on that day after 5 P. M.

The House will now adjourn and meet again at Eleven O'Clock to-morrow morning.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-2 P. M.

A. GUNAMONY,
*Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.*

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